

News Release



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RECLAMATION ANNOUNCES WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION UPDATE FOR WATER YEAR 2002

Reclamation today announced its March update for the Water Year 2002 allocation of available water supplies from the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP). Reclamation's official allocation uses the 90-percent exceedence forecast, which is based on a dry-year classification in the water runoff information prepared by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Reclamation has prepared two operations forecasts based on March 1, 2002, forecasted hydrologic conditions: one for dry-year conditions at the 90-percent probability of exceedence and one for below-normal year conditions at a 50-percent probability of exceedence. Due to very dry conditions in February, the runoff has fallen to the lower end of the dry water year range in the official forecast.

Decisions on the allocation are made based on the following:

- Meeting D-1641 standards set by the State Water Resources Control Board
- Meeting water supply and water rights contracts and agreements
- Satisfying Endangered Species Act requirements
- Implementing Section 3406(b)(2) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) as clarified by a court decision dated February 5, 2002
- Implementing the CALFED Record of Decision
- Implementing the Trinity River Mainstem Restoration Record of Decision as limited by the April 25, 2001, court decision restricting releases to the Trinity River to 368,600 acre-feet.

Factors and conditions that influence the allocation include:

- Changes to hydrology
- Opportunities to exercise operational flexibility of the CVP
- Implementation of water augmentation tools
- Upstream CVP storage and San Luis Reservoir storage conditions

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Despite the dry conditions in the forecast, allocations to most CVP contractors remain unchanged from the initial announcement in February. Reclamation has been working with other Federal and State agencies in the CALFED Program to develop an operations plan in 2002 which supports water supply reliability and fishery protection and restoration needs. The current plan employs water augmentation tools reflected in the forecast including use of Environmental Water Account (EWA) assets to satisfy potential late spring export curtailments at the CVP Tracy Pumping Plant as well as the California State Water Project's (SWP) Banks Pumping Plant.

As indicated in the February announcement, the CVP and SWP will be operated to support the minimum storage needs in San Luis Reservoir through the summer months. Reclamation will review the delivery schedules submitted by the CVP contractors and coordinate the operations with DWR to achieve the storage targets in San Luis Reservoir. As the water year progresses and the water supply situation becomes more certain, the allocation to all contractors will be modified to fully utilize available resources. Agriculture and Municipal & Industrial (M&I) contractors with conserved 2001 CVP supplies in San Luis Reservoir will be able to augment their 2002 deliveries.

Mid-Pacific Region Initial Water Year 2002 Allocation									
Probability of Exceedence Forecasts	Percent of Historical Average Sacramento River Runoff & Year Type	North of Delta Allocation (percent of contract amount)				South of Delta Allocation (percent of contract amount)			
		Ag	M&I	R	WR	Ag	M&I	R	WR
90%	67% Dry	100	100	100	100	55*	80	100	100
50%	83% Below Normal	100	100	100	100	55*	80	100	100
Recent Historic Average (5-Year Average Allocation)		90	95	100	100	75	91	100	100

(M&I allocations are based on historical use)

* If an injunction should prevent Reclamation from implementing the February 5, 2002, United States District Court's Decision and Order RE: Summary Judgement Motion on Offset/Reset, the allocation may be revised. The allocation may also be revised due to export curtailments which may not be covered by CVPIA 3406(b)(2) or the EWA.

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In the 90-percent exceedence forecast, there will not be water available for allocation to CVP East Side Division contractors (Stanislaus River). This is a change from the February forecast of 3-percent allocation. In the 50-percent exceedence forecast, the allocation is projected to be approximately 15-percent of the contracted amount.

The Friant Division deliveries for Water Year 2002 are projected to be 600,000 acre-feet, or 40-percent of the historic water supply of 1.5 million acre-feet. The allocation for Friant Division contractors will be 75-percent of Class 1 water and 0 (zero) percent of Class 2 water. The projected Friant Division delivery of 600,000 acre-feet is based on the DWR 90-percent exceedence forecast. The 2002 precipitation season is about 73-percent completed. Through March 15, 2002, precipitation in the San Joaquin River watershed was 30.59 inches compared to 25.80 inches this time last year.

Throughout the precipitation season, updated information will be provided as conditions warrant. For additional information on the Water Year 2002 Allocation press release, contact the Public Affairs Office at 916-978-5100 or TDD 916-978-5608.

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